

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 7 but indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges such indication of allowability.

Claims 1-4 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,072,201 ("Devaux"). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 10-11 are patentable over the cited art for the following reasons. The art of record fails to teach or suggest one or more features of the rejected claims.

Devaux discloses a support for a microwave transmission line. Specifically, the reference discloses a transmission line supported by a folded strip of dielectric material sandwiched between two ground plates. The configuration is described as providing a precise mechanical holding of the transmission line such that the system is resistant to vibrations. See col. 2, ll 30-45.

Claims 1 and 11 of the present application describe, among other things, "a plurality of conductor matched impedance transmission line elements." Devaux does not teach or suggest this feature. Specifically, the reference does not show or suggest the transmission line element is impedance matched.

In rejecting claim 1 and 11, the Examiner states that Devaux teaches that the single transmission line is impedance matched because the reference teaches minimizing disturbances. However, Devaux only teaches the disturbances being of the mechanical nature. See col. 2, ll. 40-50. Consequently, there can be no suggestion that the line is

"impedance matched" as stated in claim 1 and 11 since such language refers to an electrical impedance and not a mechanical property of the line. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited art and therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 10-11. Applicant also respectfully submits that since claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1, claims 2-10 are also patentable.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is also patentable because it recites additional features not taught or suggested by the art of record. Claim 2 recites "a ground plate disposed a predetermined distance from the transmission line elements wherein the predetermined distance is reflective of a characteristic impedance of the system." Such a feature is not taught or suggested by the art of record.

Devaux states that "it shall be assumed that...conductive strip 1 is kept at equal distance between two parallel ground planes 3,4". There is no mention or suggestion in the reference, however, that the distance between the ground planes 3,4 and the conductive strip 1 is reflective of a characteristic impedance of the system as recited in claim 2 of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1-11, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner believes that the present application is not allowable for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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